

even be opposed. It meant secret diplomacy and secret treaties. It meant that in those things, most vital to the lives and welfare of the people, they would have nothing to say."

While early presidents deferred to Congress, later presidents have latched on to the fact that the Constitution declares the president commander-in-chief of the armed forces to justify their use of the military without prior authorization from Congress. This led Congress to enact the War Powers Resolution of 1973 to further clarify that the solemn duty to decide when to send U.S. troops into hostilities belonged to Congress.

According to Section 2(c) of the War Powers Resolution the President can introduce U.S. forces into hostile situations "only pursuant to (1) a declaration of war, (2) specific statutory authorization, or (3) a national emergency created by attack upon the United States, its territories or possessions, or its Armed Forces."

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Congress approved a resolution authorizing President Bush to take action against the parties responsible for the heinous attacks. However, the authorization was limited in scope.

Specifically, the joint resolution stated:

"That the President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons."

In other words, Congress only authorized the President to take action against those responsible for the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001. The President must have compelling evidence of the complicity of another nation in the September 11 attacks in order to use the U.S. military to take action against that nation. Absent such evidence, the President would be required under the Constitution to come back to Congress seeking an additional authorization of force resolution before expanding the military campaign.

This interpretation was confirmed by Mr. Louis Fisher, Senior Specialist in Separation of Powers at the Congressional Research Service, who recently testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee that "military operations against countries other than Afghanistan can be appropriately initiated only with additional authorization from Congress."

It is critical, as a representative democracy, that profound decisions on war and peace rest with the branch closest to the people—the legislative branch.

The amendment I offered with Representative PAUL was intended to send the message that the President has a constitutional obligation to return to Congress to seek authorization before expanding the military campaign against terrorism. Unfortunately, the Rules Committee refused to allow a discussion on this, one of the most difficult and solemn issues that confronts our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that my Republican colleagues were unwilling to go on record in support of the DeFazio-Paul amendment, which was intended to defend congressional war powers from encroachment by the executive branch.

THE POWER OF STEEL

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today is a heartfelt day for people from one of the most historic neighborhoods in my district. They are involved in something very special this morning in New York City. The Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, where as many as 800 people meet weekly to worship and give thanks, is in Baretas, one of Albuquerque's oldest neighborhoods. In the 1970's the church, including two prominent bell towers, was razed because the structure was unsound. Parishioners then moved across the street, into the existing Church gymnasium. The bells were lost until recently, when one was found in somebody's backyard.

Now that one of those bells has reappeared, the Parish and members of the community hope to once again sound the bells throughout Baretas.

This need and an inspired idea were the beginning of a wonderful journey that has brought together the people of New Mexico and the citizens of New York.

Leaders in the community asked Archbishop Michael Sheehan and others, including me, to ask the City of New York for two steel beams from the World Trade Center. Those beams, the hope was, would be incorporated into the design of the new bell tower in a manner that would respect and remember the terrible terrorist attacks against our country the morning of September 11, 2001.

A delegation from New Mexico, including Father Moore, John Garcia, Sosimo Padilla, Stan Tinker, and a member of my staff, are in New York this morning at Ground Zero. They are meeting with construction workers to pick up two 20-foot beams, remnants of the World Trade Towers and very generous gifts from the people of the City of New York. Father Moore will bless the beams for their safe journey to a new beginning.

Those bells rang when World War II ended. They rang for weddings and funerals. They rang every Sunday morning over the City of Albuquerque to call people to worship. We are pleased in Albuquerque and thankful to the people of New York that the bell towers will be rebuilt and the bells will ring again. They will ring as a call to prayer, and they will now ring in remembrance.

We saw the face of evil on September 11th. And in the aftermath, we saw the depth of America's goodness and a return to simple faith. We are a strong, loving people and a faithful people. New Mexico will rebuild this bell tower and remember. This bell tower will remind us and call us to worship for many years to come.

President Bush said that terrorism cannot dent the steel of American resolve. I agree. These beams, this parish, this community, represent the strength of our American character and all the best our Nation has to offer. I'm honored to be a part of this.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during the votes of the following measures considered on May 15, 2002:

1. Final passage of H. Res. 420, allowing the House to consider a report from the Rules Committee on the same day it is presented to the House. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" (#164).

2. On ordering the previous question for H. Res. 422, allowing the House to consider H.R. 4737 to reauthorize and improve the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and improve access to quality child care. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" (#165).

3. Final passage of H. Res. 422, allowing the House to consider H.R. 4737 to reauthorize and improve the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and improve access to quality child care. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" (#166).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was briefly absent from this chamber on May 22, 2002 and missed voting on rollcall vote 196. I want the record to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 196. Also, due to a family situation, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber on May 23, 2002 and I would like the record to show that had I been present in this chamber, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 197, "no" on rollcall vote 198, "yea" on rollcall vote 199, "yea" on rollcall vote 200, "yea" on rollcall vote 201, "yea" on rollcall vote 202, "no" on rollcall vote 203, "no" on rollcall vote 204, "yea" on rollcall vote 205 and "no" on rollcall vote 206.

A TRIBUTE TO NANCY T. SUNSHINE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Nancy T. Sunshine as she is inducted as president of the Brooklyn Bar Association. Her climb to the top of this association is a fine example for us all.

Currently, Ms. Clark is the Chief Clerk in the Appellate Term, Second Department, where she oversees the daily functions of the second, ninth, tenth, and eleventh judicial districts and is a confidential assistant to the Court. Among her responsibilities are long-term planning, budgeting, and personnel issues including interviewing candidates for non-judicial positions. Part of her professional success is attributable to the valuable experience that she